Sri N. B. SIRDESAI.—In answer to (a), may I know the number of persons (both male and female) recommended to the Recruitment Committee for interview and how many have been selected and employed ?

† Sri AZEEZ SAIT.— Those details are not before me. However, I would like to say that 1,899 persons have been selected in the year 1972 as against 15,763.

SUPERSESSION OF MYSORE STATE HOUSING BOARD

629. Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Chamundeswari).—

Will the Minister for Municipal administration be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued a notice to the Mysore State Housing Board asking them to show cause as to why the Board should not be superseded ; if so, the grounds for taking such a step ;

(*b*) whether the Board have sent a reply to the show cause notice ; if so, the contents of their reply ;

(*c*) whether the grounds for show cause notice and reply have been examined by the Law Department ; if so, the gist of the opinion recorded by them ;

(*d*) further steps the Government propose to take in the matter ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT (Minister for Labour) [On behalf of Sri B. BASAVALINGAPPA (Minister for Municipal Administration).—

(*a*) A notice under Sec. 86 (1) of the M.H.B. Act has been issued.

Grounds cannot be revealed in public interest.

(*b*) Yes. The contents of the reply cannot be revealed in public interest.

(*c*) The reply to the notice has been examined by the Law Department.

The gist cannot be revealed in public interest.

(*d*) Further steps are being taken by Government.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—May I request the Hon'ble Minister to let the House know the contents of the show cause notice ?

† Sr AZEEZ SAIT.—We have replied that the grounds cannot be revealed in public interest

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—May I know from the Government what are the irregularities that were noticed ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—That also is not to be made known in public interest.

Sri K PUTTASWAMY.—Madam Speaker, I have to seek the protection of the Chair. My question was admitted ; no portion of my question has been disallowed. Government is rather reluctant to come out with the answers. Issue of show-cause notice and irregularities noticed are matters in which this House has very keen interest. This shows that the Government is trying to avoid giving information and the Chair has to kindly come to the protection of the Member.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—There is no disrespect to the House or the Hon'ble Chair. Certain administrative matters have to be kept in secret in public interest.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—I want to know what are the duties which were neglected by the Board ?

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—The report has already come and it is under examination of Government.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—The Hon'ble Minister in-charge has not come ; I do not know for what reasons. The Hon'ble Minister now replying is not able to satisfy me. I want to know what are the irregularities that are committed by the Board and what notice was issued under 86 (1) ? If the Hon'ble Minister is not in a position to answer, the Chair may kindly exercise the power and hold over the Question.

2-00 P.M.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I do not see any reason to hold over this question because the answers are quite clear. The answer given is that "a notice under Sec. 86 (1) of the MHB Act has been issued", and "grounds cannot be revealed in public interest."

Sri M S. KRISHNAN.—The Hon. Minister concerned is not present in the House. His presence in the House is absolutely necessary because this question pertains to him and this matter is quite a serious one. If the Minister (Sri Azeez Sait) cannot answer, it can be held over. After all the question asked is : what are the irregularities committed by the Board. If the irregularities are not made known to us, why are we here for and that too in the matter of Housing Board. There can be nothing secret about the irregularities that have been committed by the Board I do not know why the Minister is shielding.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—The question asked is : "whether the Government have issued a notice to the MSHB sking them to show cause as to why the Board should not be superseded ; if so, the grounds for taking such a step." A clear answer has been given to this question, i.e., "The grounds cannot be revealed in public interest". There is an aswer to the satisfaction of the Government, Holding back certain information is a power which is given to the Government under the statute. According to the provisions of the Act a notice has been given. At this stage we are not in a position to reveal the grounds for taking such a step. We will give as much information as the Government considers it necessary. The House will have to be satisfied with the information.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—I wanted to know the irregularities committed by the Board. The Hon. Chief Minister was also in-charge of the Housing Board for sometime. I am very much surprised to hear the Chief Minister saying so. In fact, we look up to the Speaker and to the Leader of the House to see that our rights are protected. It is a legitimate request of mine and I want to know what are the irregularities that the Housing Board had committed.

Sri AZEEZ SAIT.—I am incharge of the question. The Government is examining the reply received by the Housing Board. If after examination, it is found necessary, we will take action.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—The other day the Hon. Minister for P.W.D placed a list of engineers who have been suspended, the pending enquiry cases and the charges that have been framed agrinst them etc., in detail. In fact he had given a printed answer. He never treated it as secret. It is the prerogative of the Government to withhold certain information and we are not questioning the right of the Government. Now we want to know what are the charges that have been framed against the Board. As regards the action to be taken by the Government, it is not our concern, it is left to the Government. I think the Chair can hold over this question. It is the privilege of this House to know the charges framed against the Board.

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—Mis-Management of the affairs of the Board and the funds of the Board are some of the charges.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—It is too general a charge.

MADAM SPEAKER.—Question Hour is over.